Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving into a network entity a signaling message indicative of a network communication;

the network entity responsively extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to carry out a communication service in response to the signaling message; and

the network entity (i) outputting the signaling message for transmission over a network to the application server and (ii) making the set of data available for use by the application server in carrying out the communication service in response to the signaling message.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is selected from the group consisting of (i) a group conferencing service, (ii) a multicasting service, and (iii) a voice mail service.

3. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving an initiation message indicative of a request by an entity to engage in a communication;

responsively extracting from a first data store a set of data usable by an endpoint application to set up the communication; and

outputting the initiation message for transmission to the endpoint application and making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the entity comprises a SIP user, and the initiation message comprises a SIP INVITE request.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

sending the set of data to the endpoint application.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

adding the set of data to the initiation message that is output for transmission to the endpoint application.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

publishing the set of data to a second data store that is accessible by the endpoint application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

sending to the endpoint application a pointer to the set of data in the second data store.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

9. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein making the set of data available for use by the endpoint application to set up the communication comprises:

publishing the set of data on a message bus accessible by the endpoint application.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) session, the endpoint application comprises a PTT server, and the set of data comprises a PTT group-list designated for the entity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the communication comprises an instant-messaging (IM) communication, the endpoint application comprises an IM server, and the set of data comprises an IM group-list designated for the entity.

12. (Original) A method comprising:

transporting an initiation message over a radio access network from a wireless mobile station to a packet-switched network, the initiation message being indicative of a request from a user of the wireless mobile station to engage in a communication;

transmitting the initiation message over the packet-switched network to a signaling proxy server, and receiving the initiation message into the signaling proxy server;

in response to the initiation message, the signaling proxy server extracting from a data store a set of data usable by an application server to set up the communication; and

the signaling proxy server forwarding the initiation message to the application server and making the set of data available for use by the application server in responding to the initiation message.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

the application server receiving the initiation message and using the set of data to set up the communication.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the set of data comprises a buddy-list designated for the user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application server comprises a push-to-talk server (PTT) and the communication comprises a PTT session.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application server comprises an instant messaging (IM) server, and the communication comprises an IM communication.

17. (Original) A system comprising:

a processor;

data storage;

user-profile data stored in the data storage;

proxy-server logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor to receive a session initiation message and to responsively output the session initiation message for transmission via a packet-switched network to an endpoint application, the session initiation message being indicative of a request to set up a communication involving a user; and

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

data-management logic stored in the data storage and executable by the processor, in response to receipt of a session initiation message, (i) to extract from the user-profile data a set of data usable by the endpoint application to facilitate set-up of the communication and (ii) to make the set of data available for use by the endpoint application in responding to the session initiation message.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the set of data comprises a buddy-list designated for the user.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) communication session, and wherein the endpoint application comprises a PTT server.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication comprises an instant-messaging (IM) communication, and wherein the endpoint application comprises an IM server.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by placing the set of data on a message bus accessible over the packet-switched network by the endpoint application.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by publishing the set of data to a data store accessible by the endpoint application.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising the data store.

24. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the data-management logic is executable to make the set of data available by inserting the set of data in the session initiation message that the processor outputs for transmission to the endpoint application.

25. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the session initiation message is a SIP INVITE request message.

26. (Original) In a networked platform of the type having proxy-server functionality to receive a session initiation message and to forward the session initiation message to an application server, wherein the application server then performs a service in response to the session initiation message, the improvement comprising:

data-management logic executable by the platform, in response to receipt of the session initiation message, (i) to extract from a profile store data usable by the application server to facilitate performance of the service and (ii) to make the data available for use by the application server to facilitate performance of the service.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

27. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the session initiation message indicates a request by a communicating entity, and wherein the data that the platform extracts from the profile store is data designated for the communicating entity.

28. (Original) The improvement of claim 27, wherein the request by the communicating entity comprises a request to establish a group communication session, wherein the data comprises a group list designated for the communicating entity, the group list being usable by the application server to facilitate establishment of communication legs for the group communication session.

29. (Original) The improvement of claim 27, wherein the request by the communicating entity comprises a request to send a communication to a plurality of users, wherein the data comprises a group list designated for the communicating entity, the group list indicating the plurality of users and being usable by the application server to facilitate sending of the communication to the plurality of users.

30. (Original) The improvement of claim 29, wherein the communication comprises an instant-message.

31. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by sending the data to the application server.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

32. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by adding the data to the session initiation message that the platform forwards to the application server.

33. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by publishing the data to a data store that is accessible by the application server.

34. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the platform makes the data available for use by the application server by publishing the data to a message bus that is accessible by the application server.

35. (Original) The improvement of claim 26, wherein the proxy server functionality is SIP proxy server functionality, and wherein the session initiation message is a SIP INVITE request message.

36. (Original) A method comprising:

receiving into a registration server a signaling message indicating that a user is online in a communication network; and

the registration server responsively extracting from a data store a buddy-list designated for the user, and the registration server making the buddy-list available for use by an application server in setting up a communication for the user.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:

publishing the buddy list to a data store that is accessible by the application server.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:

publishing the buddy-list accessible to the application server on a message bus.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein making the buddy-list available for use by the application server in setting up a communication for the user comprises:

sending the buddy-list to the application server.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication comprises a push-to-talk (PTT) session, and the application server comprises a PTT server.

41. (Original) The method of claim 36, wherein the communication comprises an instant messaging (IM) communication, and the application server comprises an IM server.

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP
300 SOUTH WACKER DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
TELEPHONE (312) 913-0001